

From the office of Representative Hernandez



TO: 79th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FR: Legislative Report on Racial Equity Working Group

DA: 2017 Regular Session

RE: Vote YEA on HB 2845

HB 2845 is a Priority Bill that will be included in the 2017 Legislative Report on Racial Equity. Communities of color recommend a Yes vote to adopt Ethnic Studies standard to the current social studies standard for Oregon public K-12 schools by 2020. The bill also directs the Department of Education to convene an advisory group to advise on curriculum that recognizes the histories, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic minorities and social movements. Final floor votes for Priority Bills will be included in the 2017 Legislative Report on Racial Equity.

By gaining knowledge and understanding of different cultures and histories, Oregon students are better equipped to participate in the global economy and engage with diverse communities. Students from marginalized communities have reported that they don't often see themselves reflected in the curriculum. By reflecting the histories of all people, adopting an Ethnic Studies standard is first step toward addressing disparities students face in the classroom. Studies have shown that the inclusion of Ethnic Studies helps increase student engagement, attendance, and GPA for all students by reflecting the histories and contributions of all people in school curriculum. We hope you will join us in our collective efforts to advance racial equity in Oregon by supporting HB 2845.

Who we are: The 2017 Legislative Report on Racial Equity is a project of a Working Group of nonpartisan, community based organizations working to advance racial equity in Oregon. The Working Group includes the Coalition of Communities of Color, APANO, Basic Rights Oregon, Causa, Unite Oregon, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Western States Center and Oregon Voice. The project also includes an advisory committee of more than twenty organizations based in communities of color, immigrant/refugee communities, and allied organizations.

If there is an alternate method of notice that would be preferred, or for feedback on the Legislative Report on Racial Equity at any point, please contact Amanda Manjarrez at Amanda@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org.

Sincerely,

Amanda Manjarrez, on behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color and the Legislative Report on Racial Equity Working Group.